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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2006

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FORMER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL RESPIRATORY THERAPIST SENTENCED
FOR POSSESSING IMAGES OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

FRESNO – United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that DARRELL SCOTT ANDERSON, 39, of Coarsegold, California, was sentenced to 78 months in federal prison by United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii for possessing images of the sexual exploitation of children. Until the time of his arrest on January 12, 2006, ANDERSON was employed as a respiratory therapist at Children's Hospital Central California in Madera. He has been detained in federal custody since his guilty plea on May 22, 2006.

A portion of the 78-month term of imprisonment will be served at the federal sex offender treatment program in Butner, North Carolina. ANDERSON will then be required to serve a term of supervised release of 120 months. During that time, ANDERSON's access to minors, sexually explicit material, computers, and the internet will be restricted. In addition, he will be required to register as a sex offender and participate in any sex offender treatment program as directed by a probation officer.

The case was the result of an investigation by the Fresno and Riverside, California offices of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Computer Crimes Unit.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who prosecuted the case, ANDERSON admitted in a plea agreement that on January 11, 2006, he knowingly possessed on one or more computer hard drives and compact discs visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. He specifically admitted using a computer and the Internet to obtain more than 600 images, many of which involved prepubescent children, sadistic or masochistic conduct, or other images of violence.

According to court documents, ANDERSON admitted at the time of his arrest that he had been collecting images of child sexual exploitation for several years, that he was sexually attracted to "pre-teen" girls, and that he had an addiction to viewing nude images of them on his computer. He denied that he had ever engaged in any inappropriate or illegal conduct while employed as a respiratory therapist.

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